

A Day of Respect: Welcoming People with Disabilities

With William C. Gaventa

Monday, March 16 • 9:30 am to 3 p.m.

At: Hartford Seminary, 77 Sherman Street
Hartford, CT



Co-Sponsor: The Connecticut Council on Developmental Disabilities

Supporting Sponsors: the Office of Protection and Advocacy and the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities at the University of Connecticut Health Center

Faith communities can change the way people with disabilities, and their families, are perceived and received in society. This workshop will reawaken faith communities to welcoming and including people with disabilities and their families. In a society where people with disabilities and their families, the elderly, and other devalued populations are more and more being treated and spoken badly of and where this mistreatment is growing and becoming more tolerated the sense of belonging is crucial. Faith communities that offer the gift of belonging can play a major role in safeguarding the lives of devalued people in a materialistic society. This conference is for faith communities who want to learn more about including persons with disabilities in faith communities. The conference will include opportunities for faith communities to share stories about their experiences with including people with disabilities, explore resources for adapting curriculum; and addressing theological issues in pastoral roles and as religious educators. Participants will receive a “how to” DVD: **Believing, Belonging, Becoming: Building Welcoming Faith Communities** as well as other handouts and literature.

Faith communities are asked to use services on Friday, March 13, Saturday, March 14 and Sunday, March 15, 2009 to incorporate members of their congregations with disabilities, and their families, in activities that support worship and religious education.

William Gaventa serves as Director of Community and Congregational Supports at the Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities, and Associate Professor, Pediatrics, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. The Boggs Center is located in New Brunswick, New Jersey and is part of the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.

As writer and author, he is Editor of the Journal of Religion Disability, and Health, editor of the newsletter for the Religion and Spirituality Division of AAIDD, Adviser for the Spiritual and Religious Supports Series-Exceptional Parent Magazine, and columnist for Insight, the national newsletter of the ArcUSA. His writings include journal articles, book chapters, monographs, resource collections, booklets, and four edited books.

Open to the public without charge (lunch provided) • Please register in advance with form on reverse side

Registration Form

A Day of Respect: Welcoming People with Disabilities

Mailing this form confirms your registration. You will not be contacted unless there is a change in the program dates.

**You also may register online
at: www.hartsem.edu/events/events.htm**

Name _____

Street Address _____

Town _____ State _____

Zip Code _____

Phone (h) _____ (w) _____

Cell Phone _____

E-Mail Address _____

Number Attending _____

Name(s) of Guest (s) _____

**Send to:
Yvette Law
Hartford Seminary
77 Sherman Street
Hartford, CT 06105**

For further information, please contact Yvette Law at 860-509-9555 or events@hartsem.edu.